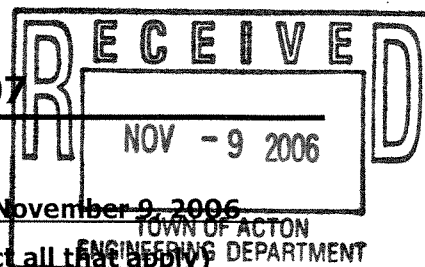


# PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2007



**Applicant:** Acton Housing Authority

**Submission Date:** November 9, 2006

**Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email**

**Purpose:** (Please select all that apply)

68 Windsor Avenue, P.O. BOX 681  
Acton, MA 01720

978-263-5339

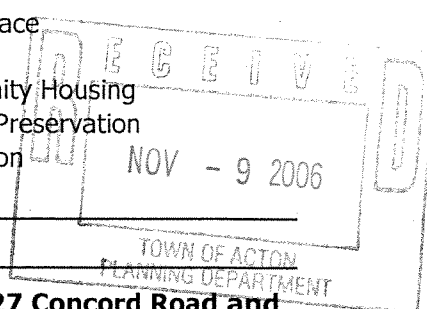
Kelley@actonhousing.net

☐ Open Space

☒ Community Housing

☐ Historic Preservation

☐ Recreation



**Town Committee (if applicable):** Acton Housing Authority

**Project Name:** Support Services

**Project Location/Address:** 68 Windsor Avenue, Sachem Way, 27 Concord Road and scattered site condominiums in Acton, MA 01720

**Amount Requested:** \$35,000

**Project Summary:** In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

The Acton Housing Authority (AHA) is seeking resources from the Community Preservation Committee to provide support to our elderly, disabled and family residents who live in our State-Aided-Housing. The request is for \$35,000 to be spent over two years. The money will supplement our federal funding for support services. These services will assist our tenants in preserving and maintaining their tenancies. It will also be used to assist our tenants in getting the support services they need from other agencies. The goal of the AHA is to find other sustainable resources to continue providing these services when the two year time period ends.

The Community Preservation Committee identified in the Community Housing Goals segment of the 2007 Plan the following goals;

- Create, preserve and support community housing...
- Provide permanent rental housing units that include support services for elderly and persons with disabilities.

These funds would assist in accomplishing both of these goals.

Currently the AHA has only one staff position to provide supportive services. This position is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has gone to project based accounting and will not allow housing authorities to use their funds to support State-Aided-Housing. The AHA would use \$10,000 of the funds from the CPC to provide services to our state housing residents.

We would also use the funds to begin a pilot program with the Elliot Community Health Center. \$25,000, to be spent over two years, would be used for administrative costs and time that can not be billed for a mental health clinician. The job of the mental health clinician will be to assess the service

needs of our tenants and make sure they are covered by insurance for their health care needs. The clinician will bill for services. It will take a couple of years to establish this program and the goal is to be able to fully fund this position without CPC funds in two years.

Many of the seniors living in our housing have support from their families and others living in the community. However, we also have seniors who do not have family living near by and are not receiving the supports necessary to live independently. Some of these seniors suffer from depression, mental illness or are struggling with Alzheimer's or dementia. We need resources to allow our staff to assist these seniors in getting the supports they need to maintain their independent living in our housing or assist them with other housing options.

The families and individuals who are tenants or voucher holders of the Acton Housing Authority (AHA) are by definition low-income households. The majority are below 30% of the median income. Many of our program participants have suffered the trauma of emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse. Our participants need assistance in breaking the cycle of poverty, raising their employability status and becoming economically self-sufficient. They also need assistance in addressing some of the emotional and psychological scars that act as barriers to their success. By addressing the common underlying issues of this population such as; low self-esteem, lack of confidence and social skills, emotional blocks to success, feelings of depression, isolation and helplessness, worry and anxiety over finances and money management, we hope to empower them and give them the skills necessary to change their lives to raise their standard of living.

It is our goal that we will be able to identify other resources over the next two years to enable us to provide services to our residents with out the assistance of Community Preservation funds.

**Estimated Date for Commencement of Project:** May 2007

**Estimated Date for Completion of Project:** May 2009